

Approved For Release 2000/04/18 : CIA-RDP82-00457R003000200005

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

200

COUNTRY Middle East

DATE DISTR. 26 JUL 1949

SUBJECT Kurdish Activities

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE 25X1A
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. May 1949

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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Kurdish Nationalist Policy

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1. In the course of recent conversations in Aleppo, Syria, [REDACTED] veteran nationalist leader, Jaladat Badrkhani, the latter maintained that:-

- a. The reason for the frequent contacts during the past few years of Kurdish nationalist leaders with members of the Soviet missions in Beirut and Damascus was simply to ascertain the Russian attitude toward Kurdish aspirations. It appears that on no occasion have the Soviet representatives come out into the open or proffered any concrete aid to these leaders.
- b. He and his colleagues have always been against the spread of Communism, although they admit that Soviet propaganda has won over the allegiance of many of the younger Kurds, notably under the leadership of Sulayman, son of Hasan Hajj Agha, the prominent nationalist.
- c. In pursuit of support for their national aspirations, the present Kurdish leaders originally were discouraged by two major aspects of the policy of the Western Powers: Britain's pro-Arab orientation, and American aid to Turkey. The signing of the Atlantic Pact, however, has now convinced them that the Soviet Union will ultimately be defeated by the West and, therefore, they have decided to readjust their own policy and co-ordinate it with that of the Anglo-Americans.
- d. As far as Kurdish relations with Turkey were concerned, these had improved during the past year, and the Kurds, consistent with their new pro-Western orientation, were anxious that they should continue to do so.

Document No. 5

NO CHANGE in Class. DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

CLASSIFICATION	SECRET/CONTROL U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY	DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
STATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB	DISTRIEUTION AUTHS DDA REG. 77/1763
ARMY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	FBI	Date: 26 MAY 1978 By: orig

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2. The general lines of the new pro-Western orientation as stated by Jaladat Badrkhani have been confirmed, though less forcefully, by Qadri Bey Janil Pasha, Kurdish nationalist leader of the Jazirah,

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Relations with Turkey

3. At a recent interview with Jalal Karasapan, the Turkish Consul in Aleppo, Badrkhani had put forward the following main suggestions:

- The Kurds resident in Turkey were willing to carry out all the obligations of Turkish nationals provided that they were given free rein to develop their own national culture.
- The Turks and Kurds should co-ordinate their efforts, with British support, against Communism.

According to Badrkhani, the Turkish Consul promised, as a start, to recommend the occasional broadcast from Radio Ankara of songs of Kurdish folklore. He also suggested that Badrkhani should have a talk on similar lines with the Turkish Minister in Damascus. Karasapan also expressed welcome for the proposal for an anti-Communist drive, but no desire that the British should be involved. He recommended, rather, that support should be elicited from the Americans, whose "designs were not so imperialist and whose policy was not so equivocal."

4. Another source, who is in contact with the Turkish Consul in Aleppo, confirmed the gist of Badrkhani's conversation with the Consul.

Russian Activities

5. A source of unknown reliability states that Feodor Pissarenko, of the Soviet Legation, attended a meeting of the Kurdish leaders, Janil Hajj Agha, Muhammad Janil Pasha and Jaladat Badrkhani at the latter's house in Beirut on 20 May. Pissarenko is understood to have informed them confidentially of the results of a Kurdish Conference which took place in Erivan at the beginning of May 1949.

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6. [REDACTED] who claims to have been at the Erivan conference, some of the decisions made there were:

- To support an agreement concluded in Berlin in December 1947, concerning Kurdish-Armenian collaboration.
- To form a plenipotentiary general executive committee representing all Kurdish parties in all countries (an Armenian liaison representative would be a member of this committee).

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- c. To collaborate fully with the Soviets for the creation of an independent democratic Kurdish State (its boundaries with Armenia would be fixed later, and special local privileges would be accorded to Chaldeans and Assyrians in areas where they preponderated).
- 7. In this connection it is reported that an Armenian Congress, due to be held in Geneva on 25 July, will support the resolutions of the Kurdish Conference for the establishment of an independent Kurdistan under Soviet patronage. A certain Krikor Krikorian of the executive committee of the Congress of Left-Wing Armenian Parties in the United States is said to have gone to the Middle East with the object of recruiting delegates for the Congress.
- 8. Continued communist propaganda is reported among the Kurdish tribes of Northern Syria. Ilustafa Bozen Bey Shahin, a Kurdish deputy in the last Syrian Parliament, has been holding meetings in the Jazirah in favor of an independent Kurdistan.

Relations with Husni Za'im's Government

25X1X 9. [REDACTED] these are more satisfied with the Za'im regime in Syria than they were with that of President Quwatli. They hope to be permitted shortly to teach Kurdish in those primary schools in Syria which are attended predominantly by Kurdish children.

10. A reason for Za'im's sympathy toward the Kurds is reported to be his mistrust of the Syrian tribes, which he regards as venal and unreliable, according to this source.

Rivalry among Kurdish Leaders

25X1X 11. [REDACTED] considerable rivalry for leadership of the Kurdish nationalist movement between Jaladat Badrkhani and Qadri Bey Jamil Pasha. Badrkhani at present is engaged in rebuilding a following of his own among the Jazirah tribes as a counter to Jamil Pasha's influence, and is attempting to enlist the support of the local leaders, Hasan Hajo Agha and Muhammad Nuri Dersimi.

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